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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions: Evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the law of the sea and ocean affairs

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the law of the sea and ocean affairs (E/AC.51/2006/5).

2. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded, together with the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea was commended for increasing its capacity and for its increasing use of non-governmental organizations

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(NGOs). However, concern was expressed over NGOs serving on UN-Oceans task forces, and the report's section on States' obligations was cited as one example of how NGO input might lead to erroneous statements.

4. It was noted that the Division, since its establishment in 1992, has made a significant contribution in coordinating the international effort on issues related to the oceans and in increasing the United Nations role by way of the Convention. Further, the work of the Division in increasing the number of parties to the Convention was recognized. Taking account of the nature of the work of the Division, the question was raised as to how it proposes to improve its staff capacity and overall efficiency, and how it can be ensured that funds are being targeted towards highest-priority issues and that the Division has sufficient resources and staff capacity to do so.

5. With respect to improving staff capacity and efficiency, the Director of the Division explained that it relies on several additional sources, both inside and outside the United Nations, to supplement its current capacity through knowledge-sharing. He added that the Division is charged with implementing agreements, a mandate that requires expertise in several areas in which it does not currently have specialized divisions. In this regard, he cited the recent example of two officers at the General Service level who have acquired the technical expertise in this manner on issues related to the continental shelf. The Division is also eliciting expertise from units within the Secretariat that not only have the requisite expertise to fill current knowledge gaps themselves, but also have relationships with outside experts who can further augment the Division's current capacity in relation to the law of the seas and other areas. The Director reported that the Division has requested more resources to assist it in implementing the tasks outlined in the report, with specific line items surrounding technical requirements, staffing and other matters. That request, he noted, will likely be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee concluded that the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea had implemented all the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-third session.**